

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

To summarize, the Examiner objects to the specification, drawings, and claims.

Additionally, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Okamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,942) and claims 1, 2, and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Additionally, the Examiner rejects claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over AAPA and Tanigawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,086,408), and claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over AAPA and Tanigawa, in view of Mews (U.S. Patent No. 5,931,691). Applicant's remarks with respect to the individual objections and rejections are as follows.

I. Objections

A. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification. In particular, the Examiner alleges that, while the Summary of the Invention should be commensurate with the invention as claimed and any object recited should be that of the invention as claimed, the Summary of the Invention should not repeat the claims. However, Applicant notes that the Summary of the Invention merely does not repeat the claims of the invention. Instead, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.73, the Summary of the Invention summarizes the invention as claimed, as well as some of the advantages of the invention as claimed. Therefore, Applicant submits that that the Summary of

the Invention complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.73; and accordingly, requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

B. Objections to the Drawings

1) Figures 7-10:

The Examiner objects to Figures 7-10 because the Examiner alleges that these figures should be designated as prior art. Therefore, Applicant amend Figures 7-10 to include the designation “prior art” as suggested by the Examiner, and submits herewith substitute drawing sheets of Figures 7-10, in accordance with the Revised Format for Amendments. Applicant requests the Examiner to approve and enter the substitute drawing Figures 7-10.

2) Figures 5 and 7:

The Examiner objects to Figures 5 and 7 because the conventional cross-hatch for insulating members has not been used. Therefore, Applicant amend Figures 5 and 7 to include the conventional cross-hatch, as suggested by the Examiner, and submits herewith substitute drawing sheets of Figures 5 and 7, in accordance with the Revised Format for Amendments. Applicant requests the Examiner to approve and enter the substitute drawing Figures 5 and 7.

3) Figures 2 and 4:

The Examiner objects to Figures 2 and 4 because the section lines of the drawings do not refer to the view number of the sectional view where it is shown. Therefore, Applicant amends Figures 2 and 4 such that the section lines of the drawings refer to the appropriate view numbers,

as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant submits herewith substitute drawing sheets of Figures 2 and 4, in accordance with the Revised Format for Amendments. Applicant requests the Examiner to approve and enter the substitute drawing Figures 2 and 4.

Additionally, Applicant amends the specification to correspond to these drawing amendments. In particular, Applicant amends the Brief Description of the Drawings with respect to Figures 2 and 4, as well as the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments. No new subject matter is added.

4) Figure 10:

The Examiner takes the position that Figure 10 should be separated into three separate Figures, e.g., Figures 10A, 10B, and 10C. Therefore, Applicant amends Figure 10 to include three separate Figures 10A, 10B, and 10C, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant submits herewith a substitute drawing sheet of Figures 10A, 10B, and 10C, in accordance with the Revised Format for Amendments. Applicant requests the Examiner to approve and enter the substitute drawing Figures 10A, 10B, and 10C.

Additionally, Applicant amends the specification to correspond to the amendment of Figure 10. In particular, Applicant amends the Brief Description of the Drawings to include Figures 10A-10C. No new subject matter is added.

5) Figure 6:

The Examiner objects to the drawings because the lamp unit body recited in claim 6 is not shown in the drawings. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant generally discloses a lamp unit body 5 in each of Figures 7 and 9. Applicant submits that the lamp unit body 5 is not depicted in Figure 6 to emphasize that the terminal member (as recited, for example, in claim 6) is provided within the socket body so that a wire, the connector and the lamp can be electrically directly connected thereto. That is, the wire is not electrically connected to an element of the lamp unit body. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

C. Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objects to claims 1, 3-7, 10, and 11 because of informalities. Therefore, Applicant amends the claims to obviate the Examiner's objections. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw these objections.

II. Claim Rejections based on Prior Art Grounds

A. Anticipation Rejections

1) Claims 1 and 2:

As set forth above, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Okamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,942). For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the anticipation rejection of claims 1 and 2.

The Examiner takes the position that Okamoto discloses all of the features of claims 1 and 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position and submits that the Examiner is mischaracterizing Okamoto.

Contrary to the Examiner's position, Okamoto neither discloses nor suggests "a terminal member provided in the socket body; wherein the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires are electrically directly connected to the terminal member", as recited in claim 1.

Instead, Okamoto discloses bulb terminal fittings 19 (compared by the Examiner to the claimed terminal member) that are connected via electric wires 41 to the connector terminal fittings 30 of Figure 13 (compared by the Examiner to the claimed connector housing). The connector terminal fittings 30, in turn, are connected to a terminal fitting of a corresponding connector (not shown)(see col. 5, lines 31-34). Thus, in Okamoto, the bulb terminal fitting 19 is not *electrically directly connected* to a wire, the connector, and the lamp. On the contrary, the bulb terminal fitting 19 is connected to the terminal fitting of a corresponding connector *via the wires 41 and the connector terminal fittings 30*. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Okamoto clearly does not anticipate claim 1 (and dependent claim 2).

2) Claims 1, 2, and 6-8:

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant's *alleged* Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

The Examiner takes the position that Applicant's related art discloses a terminal member provided within the socket body so that a wire, the connector and the lamp can be electrically directly connected thereto, as recited in claims 1 and 6. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position and submits that the Examiner is mischaracterizing Applicant's related art.

Contrary to the Examiner's position, Applicant's related art discloses that the wire 7 is received in the connection portion 4 of the lamp unit body 5, which is disposed adjacent to a socket mounting hole of the lamp unit body 5, not by the terminal member 2 of the lamp socket 1. In particular, a press-connecting terminal 8 is inserted in the connection portion 4 of the lamp unit body 5 and receives the wire.

On the other hand, the terminal member 2, which electrically connects to the bulb 3, is mounted to the lamp socket 1. When the lamp socket 1 and the lamp unit body 5 are assembled, the terminal member 2 of the lamp socket 1 is electrically connected to the press connecting terminal 8. Thus, the terminal member 2 is connected electrically to the wire 7 by the press-connecting terminal 8, which is mounted in the lamp unit body 5. That is, the terminal member 2 is *not* electrically directly connected to the wire 7.

Contrary to Applicant's related art, claims 1 and 6 recites, *inter alia*, "a terminal member within the socket body; wherein the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires are electrically directly connected to the terminal member". Accordingly, Applicant's related art clearly does not disclose or suggest at least this recitation; and thus, does not anticipate

independent claims 1 and 6. Additionally, claims 2, 7, and 8 also are not anticipated by Applicant's related art at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 6, respectively.

B. Obviousness Rejections

The Examiner rejects claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over AAPA and Tanigawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,086,408), and claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over AAPA and Tanigawa, in view of Mews (U.S. Patent No. 5,931,691).

1) Claims 3, 4, 9, and 10:

In the present Office Action, the Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to combine Applicant's related art with the disclosure of Tanigawa to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position.

In Applicant's claimed device, the plurality of lamp sockets can be connected together beforehand by the wires to form a socket assembly that can be used for various kinds of lamp unit bodies having different lamp arrangements. That is, the wire installing operation does not need to be affected at the lamp unit body, and accordingly, production costs can be reduced. For example, claims 1 and 6 recite, *inter alia*, "a terminal member within the socket body; wherein the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires are electrically directly connected to the terminal member".

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Contrary to the claimed invention, Tanigawa neither discloses nor suggests a device in which the installing operation does not need to be effected at the lamp unit body. For example, in Tanigawa, the wires W are laid along the jig 10 (i.e., the lamp unit body) and secured to hook-shaped locking pins 11, which project upward from the jig 10.

Additionally, similar to Applicant's related art, Tanigawa appears to disclose a device in which the terminal member and the connector are not electrically directly connected, but instead, are connected by a wire. For example, the common crimping terminal metal wire-contact fitting 23K (compared by the Examiner to the claimed terminal member) of Tanigawa is not electrically directly connected to the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires. Instead, the power supply connector of Tanigawa (which appears to us to be the unmarked connector depicted at the right side of Figure 1) is connected directly to the wire W, not to the crimping terminal fitting 23K. Thus, Tanigawa clearly does not disclose or suggest at least "a terminal member within the socket body; wherein the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires are electrically directly connected to the terminal member", as recited in independent claims 1 and 6, respectively.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that any combination of Applicant's related art and Tanigawa would not result in the claimed invention in as complete detail as recited in independent claims 1 and 6, from which claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 depend. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 3, 4, 9, and 10.

2) Claims 5 and 11:

With respect to claims 5 and 11, the Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to combine Applicant's related art with the disclosures of Tanigawa and Mews to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant submits that claims 5 and 11 are patentable over any combination of the applied references, at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, which Applicant believes are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

In particular, Applicant submits that Mews does not make up for the deficiencies of Applicant's related art and Tanigawa. For example, similar to Applicant's related art and Tanigawa, Mews neither discloses nor suggests at least "a terminal member within the socket body; wherein the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires are electrically directly connected to the terminal member", as recited in independent claims 1 and 6. In fact, Mews does not even disclose a power supply connector or the manner in which it would be connected to the device of Mews. Therefore, Applicant submits that neither Applicant's related art, Tanigawa, nor Mews, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests all of the recitations of independent claims 1 and 6, from which claims 5 and 11 depend. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 5 and 11.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/042,321
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III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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